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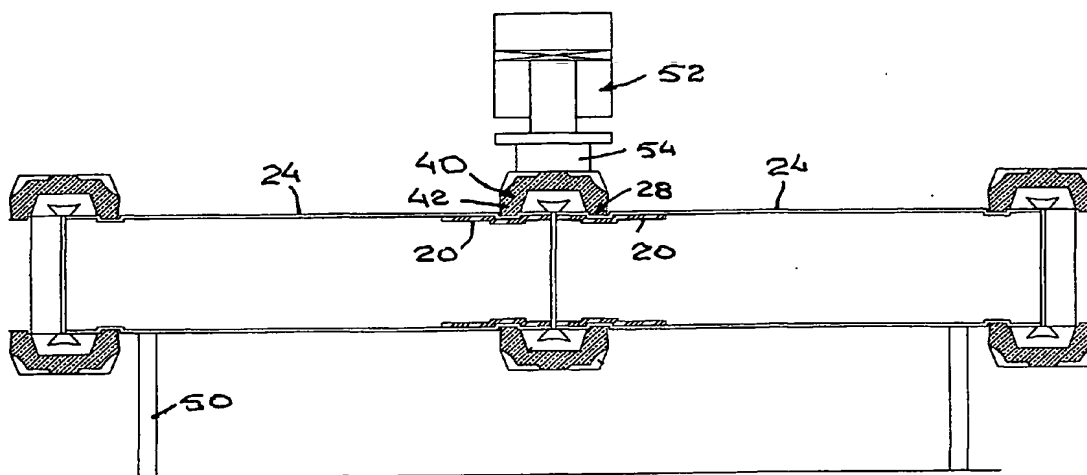
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(54) Title: PIPE COUPLING AND METHOD



(57) **Abstract:** A pipe coupling including coaxially aligned pipes (24), an internal tubular metal sleeve (20) having opposed ends press-fit into the open ends of the pipes, channel-shaped grooves (28) rolled into an outside diameter of each of the pipes and the sleeve (20), and a U-shaped circular metal housing (40) having leg portions (42) received in the grooves (28), retaining the pipes in coaxial alignment. The method includes press-fitting the opposed ends of the sleeve into the pipes, rolling a channel-shaped groove (28) into the pipes (24) and the sleeve (20), and assembling the legs (42) of the housing (40) in the grooves (28).

WO 2004/011835 A3